

have philosophically and about Medicare rates being the prevailing rate in terms of required coverage, which would essentially mean, in our opinion, that we will be on a path to a single-payer system, something that certainly our Members would not want to see.

But I thank the gentleman for sharing, and we look forward to perhaps working on those parts or, if we could, just items that we can agree on, again, if the public option begins to have trouble. So, again, I thank the gentleman.

If I could, Mr. Speaker, turn to the question of foreign policy and where we are in terms of the bill coming from the Foreign Affairs and Financial Services Committees.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman had said that the White House was engaging in discussions with China and Russia, that perhaps that was why the bill would not be moving forward. This, again, is the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act. And to paraphrase the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the gentleman indicated that Mr. BERMAN will be talking to the White House about timing.

I yield to find out whether we have any clarity on that and when that bill will be coming to the floor.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have talked to Mr. BERMAN. He is in discussions with the White House. Both you and I are strong supporters of the legislation, as is Mr. BERMAN. My expectation is he has indicated that he wants to consider this bill and bring it to the floor, and I have told him that as soon as it's ready to come to the floor, I will schedule it for the floor.

In addition, I will tell the gentleman that it is possible that we will have the sanctions bill out of the Financial Services Committee. As you know, there are two different bills. The Berman bill is the stronger of the two. But we may well move next week, may move next week, on the Financial Services sanction bill, which deals with, obviously, financial transactions.

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My expectation is Mr. BERMAN is looking at this and does hope and expect to bring this bill out either at the very latter part of a couple weeks from now or perhaps the first week in November. But I know he's very much engaged in this, and we very much support moving on this.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has noticed that the Homeland Security appropriations bill is coming to the floor next week. Reports have indicated that perhaps some of the trouble surrounding bringing that bill to the floor deals with the language of dealing with the detainees at Guantanamo Bay and their transfer. And as the gentleman knows, Republican-sponsored language that was adopted by the House is some-

thing that we would very much like to see included in the conference report.

I do know, Mr. Speaker, that the Senate just adopted in the Defense appropriations bill that they are deliberating upon that no funds would be allocated or appropriated for the transfer of those detainees, by an overwhelming vote.

So I would ask the gentleman, should we expect that language, the House-passed language, to be in the conference report that would come to the floor?

Mr. HOYER. Of course, the conference hasn't been held so I don't want to predict what's going to be in there or not. I will tell the gentleman, as the gentleman knows, the authorization bill, the conference report that we just passed does have within it, as you know, a prohibition on the release of Guantanamo detainees in the United States, territories, and possessions. In addition, it restricts detainee transfers to the United States or its territories or possessions until 45 days after the President has submitted a plan to Congress certifying that the detainees will pose little or no threat or risk to the United States if transferred. That language we just passed.

Now, I can't predict whether the appropriations conference will track that language or will have different language such as the language to which you just referred. But I expect there to be language on that issue.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

I would just note as well that the House-passed language in the Homeland Security bill also had a provision lacking in the bill we just passed which had to do with States' ability to veto a decision to transfer detainees—something very much, I would say to the gentleman, our Members would like to see in the bill that comes to the floor next week on the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

I would just like to lastly turn to the issue of the remainder of the year and the calendar and what Members can expect as far as November is concerned.

Today is October 8. The House is scheduled to adjourn at the end of this month on October 30, and I was hoping that the gentleman could give us a better sense of the session that we will expect in November.

And I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As I have said before, my expectation is that Members ought to be planning on at least 4-day weeks in the first week in November and the third week in November. As the gentleman knows, Veterans Day falls in the middle of the second week of November, and my belief is it's going to be very difficult to get Members back for a day and a half—and very impractical and costly—then to have to go back for Veterans Day and then probably not come back doesn't seem to be a very useful use of time.

But I have caveated that with the issue of health care. Health care is, as

I said, the major issue that we're focused on. We think it's critically important for the American people to have access to affordable, quality health care, which is our objective. As a result, that second week we haven't given it away yet, but my expectation is that we probably will not be meeting that week. My expectation is also—and my plan will be—not to meet Thanksgiving week. I think people ought to be home during Thanksgiving week and, again, I make the caveat as to where we may be on health care.

Now of course if we can get unanimous consent to put it on a consent calendar and pass it, maybe we can shorten the time. But absent that, I want to make sure that we all understand that if health care, for instance, was being considered that third week and we had to move into Saturday or Monday to pass it, we might do that.

But again, I reiterate that for November, my expectation is first and third week probably here at least Tuesday through Friday of each week, and with respect to the second week, probably not here and the fourth week probably not here.

Having said that, you asked for the balance of the year.

Again, it will depend upon whether we can complete our work within those 2 months. If we can't, we will clearly be here in December. Again, as someone who has served here a long time and has seen us meet as late as December 23 or 24, I think that's not good for our families, it's not good for the Members, and I certainly am not one that looks forward to that, and I am going to do everything I can to make sure that we get our work done no later than the end of the second week of December.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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#### HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

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#### HONORING CAPTAIN BENJAMIN A. SKLAVER

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and mourn together with his family the death of Captain Benjamin A. Sklaver of Hamden, Connecticut, who served his country and the neediest people of the world honorably.

Captain Sklaver was killed in an ambush last Friday while on patrol in Afghanistan. Struck down at the age of